

Game Preview: Phoenix Suns host Jason Kidd, Kevin Garnett and the other Lopez kid

Written by

Friday, 15 November 2013 13:00 -



The circus is coming to town, and the Phoenix Suns are ready for it. As has long been the case in the NBA, a veteran team's kryptonite is a brash, young opponent early in the NBA season. Enter the Phoenix Suns.

For the past several years, the [Phoenix Suns](#) have been the team dreading that game on the schedule featuring a young, upstart team who could run the aging Suns off the court on any given night. Finally, the Suns are that team and the

[Brooklyn Nets](#)

are that aging unit wishing they could just fast-forward to Saturday.

The opponent

The Brooklyn Nets starting unit is "swoll" with All-Stars at nearly every position: each of PG [De](#)
[ron Williams](#)

, SG

[Joe Johnson](#)

, SF

[Paul Pierce](#)

, PF

[Kevin Garnett](#)

and C

[Brook Lopez](#)

have all made at least one All-Star game. Compare that to the Suns starting lineup boasting 0 All-Star games and you'd think the Suns would be easily eclipsed tonight.

Yet the Nets have started the season 2-5 with no signs of a turnaround yet. Their offense is horrendous, ranked 26th in points-per-100-possession while their defense is middle of the pack (14th).

The Nets are 0-4 so far on the road, with losses to Cleveland, Orlando, Washington and Sacramento who are collectively 7-22 against the rest of the league. Worse than that, the Nets are losing to those losers by an average of 106-93.

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Joe Johnson is averaging his fewest points (12.7) since his second NBA year in 2002. Not to be outdone, Deron Williams is averaging his fewest points (11.0) and assists (7.4) since his rookie season in 2005. Think that's bad? Paul Pierce and Kevin Garnett laugh at that. Pierce is averaging a career low in points (13.7) while Kevin Garnett is doing the same (6.0).

Only Brook Lopez is playing well among their starters, putting up nearly 20 points and 7 rebounds a game at the center position.

Still, these guys are All-Stars and the Nets can wake up at any moment. Let's hope it's not tonight.

For an inside scoop on the Nets, be sure to check out my [Q and A with Nets Daily's Dennis Velasco](#) on the state of the Nets.

The Suns

We all know about the Suns, but did you know the Suns are now up to [4th in defensive efficiency](#) after the Portland game while their offense has dropped to 19th overall. Frankly, when the Suns aren't fast-breaking, they're not making enough shots in the half-court sets. The Suns need to run to succeed. If the Nets can slow down the game, the Suns will be in trouble.

Two of the Suns top three scorers come off the bench - [Markieff Morris](#) (WCF POW) pours in 15.9 and [Gerald Green](#) scores 13.7 - to lead the self-named Bench Mob.

[Goran Dragic](#) most likely returns to the lineup, hopefully to finish the game this time. Dragic has only finished 3 of 8 games so far this season, missing two games entirely due to ankle injury and leaving three others (ankle, bleeding gash) before they finished. Let's hope new daddy Dragic can see out of both eyes on Friday night.

The stats

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The law of averages state that teams regress to the mean. Let's just hope that's not tonight. The Nets have shown no inclination to win on the road yet, and Phoenix is the toughest team they've faced. Their previous road opponents are a combined 7-22 in other games.

Suns win 105-95.

For more coverage, check out [NetsDaily](#)

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Poll **Do the Suns beat the Nets on Friday night?**

- Yes, the Suns blow the Nets off the court
- Yes, but in a squeaker
- No, the Nets show their all-star talents and crash the Suns back to earth

113 votes | [Results](#)